

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5149

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, CB

SUBJECT: GOL MAY RECOGNIZE GRUNK

1. FONMIN DENNIS CALLED ME TO THE MINISTRY LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 1 TO DISCUSS CAMBODIAN SITUATION. DENNIS SAID GOL CONCERNED OVER RECENT DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. HE RECALLED NON-ALIGNED RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT 1973 ALGIERS SESSION WHICH CALLED FOR RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AS SOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. IN DEFERENCE TO US POSITION, HOWEVER, GOL HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED US POSITION ON GRUNK IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA SINCE THAT TIME. IN SO DOING, GOL HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ISOLATED FROM ITS AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED COLLEAGUES. IN VIEW OF CURRENT SITUATION GOL BELIEVES IT TO BE IN ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS IDENTIFY ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH ITS AFRICAN BROTHERS AND RECOGNIZE GRUNK. THE RECENT EXIT OF LON NOL UNDERSCORES URGENCY FOR GOL TO MOVE WITH AFRICAN AND NON-ALIGNED CONSENSUS. DENNIS SAID PRESIDENT TOLBERT WAS WELL AWARE OF TREND AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK FACTION AND WISHED TO MOVE WITH THE TREND. I RESPONDED THAT US POSITION HAS NOT BEEN RECOGNITION OF LON NOL PER SE, BUT RATHER RECOGNITION OF THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. WE WOULD HOPE THAT GOL COULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US IN THIS POSITION AND THE GENERAL PREPOSITION OF ALLOWING

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THE CONTESTING PARTIES TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION AMONG THEM-

SELVES. DENNIS SAID HE APPRECIATED US POSITION BUT GOL NOW WISHED TO IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WITH THE AFRICAN CLUB.

2. COMMENT: DENNIS DID NOT INDICATE ANY TIMETABLE FOR GOL RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AND GOL MAY IN FACT AWAIT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CAN EXPECT LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT FROM GOL, AS IN PAST, ON THE GRUNK IN UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. DENNIS' USE OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S NAME THROUGHOUT UNDERLINES THAT THIS GOL POSITION TAKEN AT HIGHEST LEVEL.
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